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Connectionless information service delivery.

For a telecommunications system having subscriber access and or PABX and connectionless network signalling, particularly for information services which do not require a bearer connection, such as Intelligent Networks (IN) and Telecommunications Information Network Architecture (TINA) the access

signalling is controlled remotely using a Connectionless Signalling Interworking Unit which interworks the network and access signalling systems by providing a transaction control and monitoring function whereby information is passed in either direction without establishment of a bearer connection.

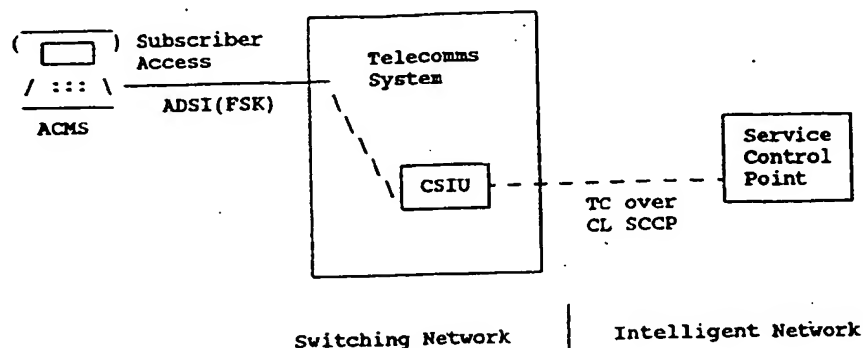


Figure 1

In a telecommunications system having subscriber access and connectionless network signalling, an interworking unit is proposed that facilitates the remote control of the access signalling. This is particularly suitable for information services which do not require a bearer connection. This concept is applicable to Intelligent Networks (IN), Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), Broadband ISDN and to the emerging Telecommunications Information Network Architecture (TINA).

Currently telecommunications systems provide a mixture of switch-based services and Intelligent Network (IN) based services, where the IN based services are typified by the service delivered within the bearer connection, i.e. a bearer is always required in order to deliver an IN service, e.g. for voice applications. Switched-based services are constrained by their implementation and the host switching platforms capabilities but do exhibit characteristics of control over the access signalling and hence are capable of limited information carriage prior to bearer establishment. However, bearer establishment is always a pre-requisite for switched-based analogue access service information transfer. That is, the telecommunications system itself presents an obstacle to the remote control of access signalling. This restricts the usability of switch-based services.

For Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) accesses there exists the concept of the user-to-user information service which can be independent of the B-channel, i.e. via the D-channel. However, there are currently relatively few ISDN Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) existing, compared to analogue CPEs.

Bell Communications Research (Bellcore) have tackled the inflexibility of analogue CPEs by their proposed Advanced Call Management Services (ACMS) Analogue Display Services Interface (ADSI) protocol to improve the subscriber (user) interface.

In order to build on the flexibility that the IN concept provides for rapid service creation, service deployment and customisation of services it is proposed to extend IN control to cover all types of access signalling, i.e. to effectively remove the obstacle of inflexible local access control. The key benefit that this proposal provides is flexibility of control over the usability of services, i.e. the 'look and feel' of the service becomes easy to customise. Control of access signalling can then be remote from the accesses, e.g. for IN the control could be centralised.

According to the present invention there is provided a telecommunications system having subscriber and/or Private Automatic Branch Exchange (PABX) accesses and connectionless network signalling, wherein the access signalling is controlled

remotely using a Connectionless Signalling Interworking Unit which interworks the network and access signalling systems by providing a transaction control and monitoring function whereby information is passed in either direction without establishment of a bearer connection.

The present invention will now be described by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which :-

Figure 1 is a schematic diagram of a Connectionless Signalling Interworking Unit; and

Figure 2 is a block diagram illustrating the functions of a Connectionless Signalling Interworking Unit.

The proposal is that each telecommunications system of a telecommunications network having subscriber accesses be equipped with a Connectionless Signalling Interworking Unit (CSIU). The function of the CSIU is to interwork the network and access signalling systems by providing a transaction control and monitoring function (which is akin to the traditional call control function when bearer connections are considered) so that information may be passed in either direction without the pre-requisite of a bearer connection. This proposal does not preclude bi-directional information transfer in the presence of a bearer connection. This proposal is also applicable to Private Automatic Branch Exchange (PABX) access signalling.

The possibility of deployment of information based services is realised by this proposal, i.e. providing information to subscribers or gathering information from subscribers irrespective of the presence of a bearer connection.

A CSIU is shown by example in Figure 1. This could be considered as a subsystem of a telecommunications system.

A service which utilises a specific CSIU could be the control by the IN of a Bellcore ACMS telephone. In this example the IN connectionless signalling would utilise International Consultative Committee for Telecommunication and Telegraphy (CCITT) Number 7 signalling Transaction Capability (TC) Recommendations Q.771-775 conveyed via the Signalling Connection Control Part (SCCP) Recommendation Q.771-716 class 1 connectionless (CL) service, as illustrated by Figure 2. The CSIU would perform a Transaction Control and Monitoring function and perform interworking to the Bellcore Analogue Display Subscriber Interface (ADSI) protocol. The CSIU would pass on the information as FSK (Frequency Shift Keying), in this example, i.e. to display some information (say Advice of Charge). Any FSK response from the ACMS telephone (say statement of bill request) would then be converted by the CSIU to TC and returned to the IN over SCCP.

When the CSIU is activated the particular subscriber access is made 'busy' from the network perspective by informing the telecommunications system call processing function of this instance of an information service. In this example a 'local' bearer connection is required to be established by call processing within the telecommunications system to connect the CSIU to the subscribers access, in order that the FSK may be conveyed between the CSIU and the access. The subscribers ACMS telephone may remain 'on-hook' because the ACMS uses the Bellcore Analogue Display Subscriber Interface (ADSI).

Claims

1. A telecommunications system having subscriber and/or Private Automatic Branch Exchange (PABX) accesses and connectionless network signalling, wherein the access signalling is controlled remotely using a Connectionless Signalling Interworking Unit which interworks the network and access signalling systems by providing a transaction control and monitoring function whereby information is passed in either direction without establishment of a bearer connection.
2. A telecommunications system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the network signalling is connection-oriented.
3. A telecommunications system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the system includes an Intelligent Network.
4. A telecommunications system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the system includes an Information Network.
5. A telecommunications system as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the system includes a Broadband Integrated Services Digital Network.

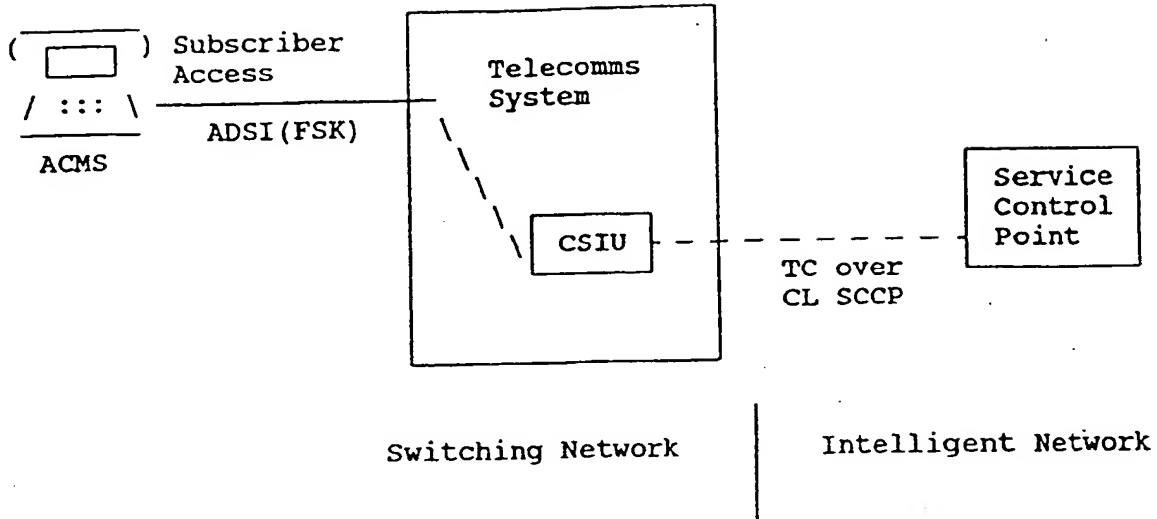


Figure 1

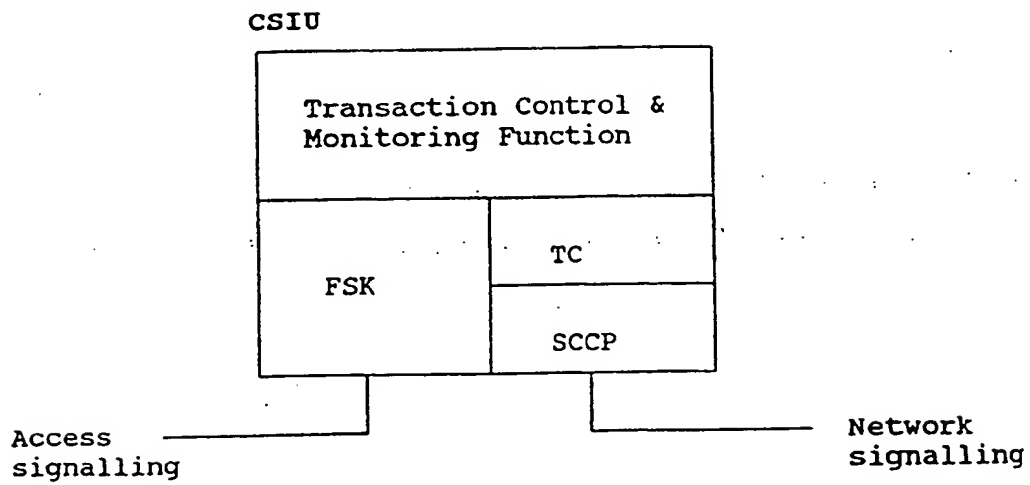


Figure 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 95 30 2625

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	GLOBAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE, SESSION 40, PAPER 6, vol. 3, 15 November 1987 TOKYO JP, pages 1589-1593, LAZZARI 'Carrying user data over a signalling network' * page 1589, left column, line 1 - right column, line 10 * * page 1592, left column, line 4 - right column, last line * ---	1-5	H04Q3/00
X	WO-A-93 15583 (GPT LIMITED) * page 2, line 10 - line 25 * * page 5, line 4 - page 7, line 9; figure 5 *	1-3	
Y	---	4,5	
Y	EP-A-0 552 385 (INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES) * page 4, line 54 - page 6, line 19 * ---	4,5	
A	IEEE JOURNAL ON SELECTED AREAS IN COMMUNICATION, vol. 12, no. 3, April 1994 NEW YORK US, pages 439-445, XP 000458689 KOSAL ET AL. 'A control mechanism to prevent correlated message arrivals from degrading Signaling no 7 network performance' * page 439, left column, paragraph 1 - page 440, left column, paragraph 2 * ---	1-5	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) H04Q H04M
A	IEEE COMMUNICATIONS MAGAZINE, vol. 31, no. 4, April 1993 NEW YORK US, pages 70-75, XP 000359826 SCHWARTZ 'The Analog Display Services Interface' -----		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 18 September 1995	Examiner Lambley, S
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 150 (CL.6) (P04C01)